



MISSION

Provide the primary artillery support for armored and mechanized infantry divisions.

DESCRIPTION AND SPECIFICATIONS

The M109A6 (Paladin) Howitzer is the most technologically-advanced self-propelled cannon system in the U.S. Army. The "A6" designation identifies several changes to the standard model that provide improvements to weapon survivability, responsiveness, RAM, armament, and terminal effects.

The fire control system is fully automated, providing accurate position location and azimuth reference, and on-board ballistic solutions of fire missions. The howitzer has a computer-controlled gun drive through servos with manual backup. Paladin uses state-of-the-art components to achieve dramatic improvements in the following:

Survivability: "shoot and scoot" tactics; improved ballistic and nuclear, biological, and chemical protection.

Responsive fires: capable of firing within 45 seconds from a complete stop with on-board communications, remote travel lock, and automated cannon slew capability.

Accurate fires: on-board POSNAV and technical fire control.

Extended range: 30 km with HE RAP and M203 propellant.

Increased reliability: improved engine, track, and diagnostics

Upgrades include: Global positioning system-aided self-location, M93 Muzzle Velocity System, and commercial off-the-shelf-based computer processor.

Other Paladin specifications include the following:

Max unassisted range: 22,000 m

Max assisted range: 30,000 m

Min range: 4000 m

Max rate of fire: 4 rds/min for three min

Sustained ROF: 1 rd/min (dependent on thermal warning device)

Max speed: 38 mph (61.1 Kph) (highway)

Crew size: 4 (accompanying M992 FAASV-5)

Weight empty (approx.): 56,400 lb (25,605.6 Kg)

Weight combat loaded (approx.): 63,615 lb (28,881.21 Kg)

FOREIGN COUNTERPART

No known foreign counterpart

FOREIGN MILITARY SALES

None

PROGRAM STATUS

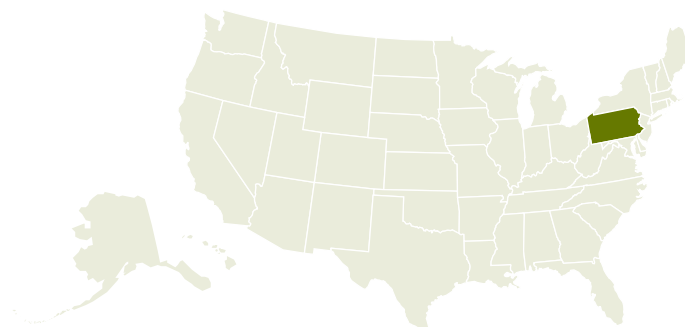
- **1994** First unit equipped; Completed fielding to Active Army, currently fielding four USARNG battalions, to be completed by FY01.
- **FY00** Production contract awarded to United Defense, L.P., York, PA in June 2000; Completed Enhanced Display System (EDS) integration for the First Digitized Division; Completed V.11 S/W Upgrade; Completed V.11 System MWO Applications.

PROJECTED ACTIVITIES

- Award Paladin EDS contract in support of First Digitized Corps.
- Plan for V.7 software improvements.
- Integrate VIS Cordless.
- Integrate Battlefield Combat ID System (BCIS).
- Field to 4 National Guard Bureau Battalions.

PRIME CONTRACTORS

United Defense, L.P. (York, PA)



* See appendix for list of subcontractors

